

Government Moves to Sell Part of Arsenal Area Land

Certain lands in Manhattan, Elwood, Florence and Wilton townships, taken over by the government for the construction of the Elwood Ordnance plant, have been declared surplus and designated for sale, according to a notice received today by County Clerk Joseph E. Hartley from the Federal Farm Mortgage corporation.

The total number of acres was not designated, but the notice stated that a complete description of the land to be offered for sale as well as complete explanations of the terms and conditions of sale and the method of exercising priorities may be obtained by writing James M. Stewart, project manager, at the Sangamon Ordnance plant, Illiopolis, Ill. The first 239 acres were offered for sale Saturday.

TO BE SOLD under a priority system, the notice stated that the following priority schedule would be followed:

1. Government agencies. Fair value.
2. Reconstruction Finance corporation for resale to small business. Fair value.
3. State and local governments. Fair value.
4. Former owners (Owners in possession when the government purchased the land.) Market price, or price paid by the government adjusted to reflect the increase or decrease in value resulting from government action, whichever is lower.
5. Tenants of a former owner. (Must have been in possession when the land was acquired by the government). The same purchase regulations as for former owners.
6. **VETERANS** and the wives

or children of deceased servicemen. (Veteran means anyone who was inducted into the service after Sept. 16, 1940 and prior to the declaration of the end of the war). Fair value.

7. Owner-operators. (Any person wishing to acquire the land to farm themselves as a means of livelihood.) Fair value.

8. Non-profit institutions. Fair value.

The time schedule for exercising priorities is as follows: Priorities 1, 2 and 3—10 days starting July 19 and continuing thru midnight, July 28. Priorities 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8—90 starting July 19 and continuing thru Oct. 16. Persons having no priority may make offers during the same 90-day period.

COUNTY CLERK Hartley said that return of the land to private ownership was a move the county had been eagerly awaiting. "When the government took that land," Hartley said, "we lost \$41,000 from our tax rolls."

Hartley explained that although much of the land has been rented out for agricultural purposes for several years, the county realized no profit from it.